In re Patent Application of
Gerald A. Pierson
Serial No. **09/938,288**
Filed **August 23, 2001**

In the Claims:

Please substitute the currently amended Claims as set forth below in a complete listing of the pending claims. Struckthrough language indicates a deletion, and underlined language indicates an addition. The amendments include no new matter and are fully supported in the application as filed.

35.(currently amended) A method of forming an optical compact disc, the method comprising the step of molding at least one plastic layer having a pattern of digital data encoded thereon, ~~the~~ wherein said at least one plastic layer ~~having~~ has a major elevational portion and a minor elevational portion, the major elevational portion having the encoded digital data thereon and the minor elevational portion being devoid of the encoded digital data.

36.(original) A method as defined in Claim 35, wherein the major elevational portion is formed in a medial portion of the optical compact disc and has first and second pairs of spaced-apart outer side peripheries defining outer boundaries of the major elevational portion, each of the first pair of spaced-apart outer side peripheries arcuately extending between each of the second pair of spaced-apart outer side peripheries, and each of the second pair of spaced-apart outer side peripheries extending substantially linearly between each of the first pair of spaced-apart outer peripheries.

37.(original) A method as defined in Claim 36, wherein the encoded digital data of the major portions of the plastic layer is formed within a circular data zone and comprises less than the entire surface area of the major elevational portion of the plastic layer.

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38.(original) A method as defined in Claim 37, wherein the step of molding the plastic layer includes molding an opening extending through a medial portion of the plastic layer.

39.(original) A method as defined in Claim 38, further comprising the step of applying a metallic layer on at least portions of the plastic layer.

40.(original) A method as defined in Claim 39, further comprising the step of applying a third protective layer on at least the metallic layer for protecting the metallic layer.

41.(original) A method as defined in Claim 40, further comprising the step of applying an indicia bearing layer on the third layer and having a generally planar upper surface for displaying indicia therefrom.

42.(currently amended) A method of forming an optical compact disc, the method comprising ~~the step of~~:

molding a compact disc having a pattern of digital data encoded ~~thereon, the compact disc having~~ on a surface bounded by first and second pairs of spaced-apart outer side peripheries defining outer boundaries of at least portions of the disc, each of the first pair of spaced-apart outer side peripheries arcuately extending between each of the second pair of spaced-apart outer side peripheries extending substantially linearly between each of the first pair of spaced-apart outer peripheries.

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43.(original) A method as defined in Claim 42, further comprising positioning an opening in a medial portion of the compact disc, wherein each of the arcuately-extending first pair of spaced-apart outer side peripheries of the portion of the disc are centered about an axis extending through the medial opening and substantially perpendicular to the linearly-extending second pair of spaced-apart outer side peripheries, and wherein a radius extending from a medial portion of the medial opening to each of the arcuately-extending first pair of spaced-apart outer side peripheries of the major elevational portion is less than 1.6 inches.